

## IMPROVED CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS IN U. S.

Former Feeling of Apprehension Because of European War Almost Entirely Gone.

### OUTLOOK IS MUCH BRIGHTER

Special Report Made Public by Committee on Statistics and Standards of Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

WASHINGTON, August 8.—The former feeling of apprehension of "homecoming" has been almost entirely disappeared, according to a special report on business conditions in the United States made public here by the committee on statistics and standards of the National Chamber of Commerce.

Even with the possibility of this country becoming entangled in the gigantic world conflict, there still remains, according to this industrial review, a pronounced belief that notwithstanding such untoward conditions, business is bound to improve and show distinct advancement. Confidence in the future, the committee asserts, is growing apace with the steady progress of the crops and the slow but continual improvement in business affairs. The findings of the committee are summed up in the following summary:

"In the main, the thoughts and interests of the great mass of producers, whether in the city industrial life, or in the countryside in agricultural pursuits, are in their immediate local particularities and in all constructive measures which will benefit their particular communities rather than either the great national or international problems. There still continues, however, much conservatism and caution in buying and in new commitments. The feeling seems to be that it is best to wait until the results of the crops are known beyond question before venturing into more extended ways, and as a consequence stocks of many commodities throughout the country continue light."

"The weather has been the keynote of the crop situation for the past six weeks. Since the first of June there have been continued excessive rains in most all sections of the country, the exceptions being few and distinctively located. The effect upon the crops has been both good and bad, but the benefit has far exceeded the damage as the rains have been the latter in some sections."

"Lumber interests are everywhere quiet. A general dearth of building outside of the large cities is having a very depressing effect on the sale of all building material."

"The conditions of mining vary sharply as to the thing mined. Copper mines are running full time and new ones are opening up. Zinc and lead mines are exceedingly busy, and the thing of iron ore is improving."

"Coal mining is everywhere dull, largely because of slack demand from the railroads and the new business in most manufacturing. Slate mining in Pennsylvania is at low stage because of lack of demand. Silver mining suffers because of low prices of silver, and gold mining is not much better save in a few favored localities."

"There is but little business in the metal stores because of lack of demand. Phosphate mines in Florida still remain closed because of the war in Europe. Unfavorable reports come from the fisheries of Oregon, Washington, the Gulf, and along the Atlantic Coast."

"Manufacturing varies much according to the articles made, though in general is very quiet. Steel and iron business shows distinct improvement with increasing orders. Business of cotton and woolen mills is only fair. Those manufacturers in different sections who have orders for war contracts are very busy. Furniture business in Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Chicago is alike dull. Paper mills are running only three-quarters time; cement factories and those making bricks and tile report only fair business. The oil business as a whole is exceedingly dull. There is very little demand for railroad ties."

"In general because of abundant feed and low prices, the raising of live stock is a growing industry in all sections of the country. From the South some reports of increased numbers of animals. The greatly increased raising in all sections this year of grain and forage crops points to a large number of cattle and horses in the stock raising and to dairy products."

"In every section of the country, without exception, the dairy industry is spoken of as a growing one and raising increasing attention from the farmer. Mules and horses are in good demand, and at desirable prices. This industry has been favorably affected by the European war."

"Dealing specifically with crops the report goes on to say that stimulated by the abnormal demand of the war, the wheat season in this country is beyond any previous planting. It is approximately 12 1/2 per cent greater in winter wheat and 10 per cent greater in spring wheat than in 1914. The continued wet weather delayed growth, harvesting and threshing. Much damage was done to the standing grain in the lowlands. Many fields were washed away entirely by the floods, and subsequent damage accrued in shocks because of sprouting and too much moisture. These accumulated results have made necessary a somewhat reduced estimate of both spring and winter wheat, and based on the reports under consideration, the estimated probable yield will be 545,000,000 bushels."

"While corn needs an abundance of moisture for its complete growth and development, it has had a superabundance this season. The result is that in the bottoms the crop in many sections is hurt beyond repair. On the uplands and the hill country the conditions, however, are of the very best and will do much to repair the damage done in the lowlands. On these hills a corn stalk is common with two ears and ears are common with two ears. Corn is being largely confined to the south Atlantic States. A tentative loss of last year."

"The reduction in the cotton acreage is approximately 16 per cent, and combined with the use of 40 per cent decrease in the use of fertilizers; the use of seed being largely confined to the south Atlantic States. A tentative loss of last year."

"Crops are particularly susceptible to damage by wet weather, but despite this the outlook now is for a yield of about 1,400,000,000 bushels closely rivaling the record-breaking production of 545,000,000 of the minor grains it can be said that they are about the average of normal production and of potatoes that the crop will closely approximate that of last year."

## To-Day and To-Night in Richmond

Board of Aldermen, special session on vice report, City Hall, 8 o'clock.

Council Committee on Streets, City Hall, 5 o'clock.

Park concert, Keweenaw's Municipal band, Chimborno Park, 8 o'clock.

Woodland Heights Playground dedication, 4 o'clock.

Lyric—Popular vaudeville matinee, 1:30, 4:45 and 8:15.

Ida—Motion pictures; continuous performance, 11 morning to 11 night.

Colonial—Motion pictures; continuous performance, 11 morning to 11 night.

Paramount pictures; continuous performance, 12 noon to 11.

Superior—Motion pictures; continuous performance, 12 noon to 11.

Virginia—Motion pictures; continuous performance.

Local Temperature Yesterday.

12 noon temperature, 86.

3 P. M. temperature, 80.

Maximum temperature to 8 P. M., 89.

Minimum temperature to 8 P. M., 78.

Normal temperature, 79.

Deficiency in temperature yesterday, 1.

Deficiency in temperature since March, 287.

Accumulated deficiency in temperature since January 1, 138.

Local Rainfall.

Rainfall last twenty-four hours, None.

Deficiency in rainfall since March, 2.54.

Accumulated excess in rainfall since January 1, 0.67.

Local Observation at S. P. M. Yesterday.

Temperature, 80; humidity, 64; wind, direction, S. by E.; velocity, 2 miles; weather, cloudy.

General Weather Conditions.

WASHINGTON, August 8.—It is somewhat cooler over the northern and western portions of the country, while in the South and the Northwest and extreme West temperatures were high. There will be thunder showers Monday in New England, the Middle Atlantic States, the Upper Ohio Valley, and in the Southern Appalachian districts, followed by generally fair weather Tuesday. There will also be showers Monday in the extreme Southwest, Monday and Tuesday in the Gulf States, and Florida, and Tuesday in the East Gulf States. In the Lower Ohio Valley and the Lake region the weather will be generally fair Monday and Tuesday. Temperature changes will not be decided.

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.

(At S. P. M. Eastern Standard Time.)

Place, H. T. T. Weather.

Asheville, 82, 67, Rain.

Atlanta, 82, 70, Clear.

Boston, 76, 63, Cloudy.

Buffalo, 70, 74, Cloudy.

Chicago, 70, 74, Clear.

Denver, 60, 64, Rain.

Galveston, 76, 74, Cloudy.

Hatteras, 86, 76, Clear.

Havre, 83, 72, Cloudy.

Montgomery, 82, 72, Clear.

New Orleans, 84, 72, Clear.

New York, 70, 70, Clear.

Oklahoma, 82, 68, P. cloudy.

Pittsburgh, 68, 59, Rain.

Raleigh, 82, 63, Clear.

St. Louis, 82, 58, Clear.

San Francisco, 62, 70, P. cloudy.

Savannah, 82, 72, Cloudy.

Tampa, 76, 92, 72, Cloudy.

Washington, 72, 58, Cloudy.

Wilmington, 68, 52, Clear.

Wytheville, 68, 52, Cloudy.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

August 9, 1915.

High tide, 5:21.

Sun sets, 6:05.

## RESERVISTS REALIZE GREAT CHANGE IN PARIS

More Like Tourist Visiting Capital for First Time Than Man Who Knows His Boulevards.

### SEE NEW THINGS EVERYWHERE

Swarm Into Court of Gare du Nord Like Children Full of Picnic Enthusiasm—Quietly Amused at Annoyances Suffered by "Civils."

PARIS, August 8.—The reservist home for the first time after a year at the front realizes less the change in himself than the transformation of his Paris. He has acquired his new color gradually, and has built up his hitherto unknown muscles almost imperceptibly. The blasé Parisian, who left for the front soft and pallid, with stooping shoulders and spiritless eye, indifferent to life, comes back not only strengthened, but brightened, his mind has been reopened to impressions. The little revolutions that have transformed Paris gradually break upon him all at once; he is more like a tourist visiting the French capital for the first time than a man who knows, or knew, his boulevards by heart.

It is a curious spectacle to see the reservists swarming into the court of the Gare du Nord like children full of picnic enthusiasm. They seem to discover something new everywhere; first of all it is the civilian that gets their curious attention. There is first the surprise of the man from the trenches that so many men were left at home; then there is unconcealed amusement at the gravity with which the less reassured of the combatants read the official communiques and calculate the chances of being safe in Paris another winter. The absence of motor busses, the reduced number of automobiles and decreased facilities for transportation inspire all sorts of quips and gibes at the "civils"; as for himself, the reservist has increased his stock of resourcefulness. A year ago he would have fumed when unable to find a cab; to-day he trots off to the subway, satisfied and amused to think that the "civils" must be devilishly anxious.

When he sits down on the terrace of a cafe he amuses himself by ordering prohibition drinks, and poking fun at the old boulevardier at his side who takes his substitute for absinthe with a grimace.

Having lost the habit of a soft bed until 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, he has discovered a new Paris—the Paris of the early hours—that goes cityward from 1 o'clock on, and is rarely seen at its best by those who find it only when submerged by the bustle of the later hours. The ordinary sewing woman, with pricked and stained finger ends, comes first. A little later a new class of milliners' models and seamstresses, the shop girls, stenographers, terminating with the mannequins and foralists, the aristocracy of the great fur cloak and dressmaking establishments.

War has reduced the number and leveled conditions; the procession is still charming, but with new features. It is a long line of white and black. No crape here, for their mourning is democratic; rich bereavements alone may wear the aristocratic weeds. Those that work content themselves with black skirt and little jacket with white collarette. This little world that files past in the early hours is witness of the tribute Paris has paid to the "civils." As a whole, the crop has done well and is in a generally good condition, though needing rain in Central and Southern Texas. Owing to the wet season, there are a number of complaints of hot weeds, though it is not possible yet even to approximate the damage done.

"Even with low-priced cotton, however, the situation in the South will be radically different from last year. Enforced economies have everywhere prevailed in the agricultural sections, old material and implements are being used in cultivating, and the cotton crop this year will be the cheapest raised in the way of production for many years. Consequently the South will be in a much better condition to stand low-priced cotton this year than last."

It can be said in general that fruit is both abundant beyond precedent and very cheap. So much so in fact that it has not been generally profitable for the producer. However, in practically all sections the apple crop will be somewhat less than last year, largely due to the fact that apple trees never bear heavily two years in succession."

### IN MEMORIAM.

Miss Frances H. Overbey. The death of MISS FRANCES H. OVERBEY, on August 7, after but a brief illness, of her relatives and many friends with deepest grief. Here was indeed an exceptional character, possessing in the highest degree, gentleness, tenderness and most lovable qualities of the best type of womanhood, combined with a mind at once brilliant in scope and broad in outlook and an intelligence keen and well-trained. Because of her warm sympathy and broad intellectual outlook on life, Miss Overbey was keenly interested in any effort for the uplift of humanity—and especially for the betterment of women—and was an enthusiastic believer in the justice of equal suffrage for man and woman. She was also a true believer in the dignity of work and felt that the attainment of the highest efficiency should be the aim of each worker. With this end in view, she also to promote a spirit of comradeship and helpfulness between individual workers. Miss Overbey, about two years ago, inaugurated the Stenographers' Association of Richmond and became its first president, giving generously of her time and strength to make it a complete success. Upon coming to Richmond Miss Overbey began as a stenographer in a prominent banking institution where her fine character and brilliant mental attainments won for her the respect and lifelong friendship of the bank officials. After several years Miss Overbey started business independently as a public stenographer, her specialty being law court work and the taking of depositions. Always of a delicate constitution, she never spared herself, but gave of her best in strength and spirit. On Monday she succumbed to the heat while taking depositions, and was brought home very ill. She never rallied, and her sweet soul passed into eternal rest on Saturday. Miss Overbey was daughter of Isaac J. Overbey, formerly of Chase City, Va., and granddaughter of Judge Wood Bouldin, most eminent jurists and a niece of the late Hon. Wood Bouldin, of Halifax County, Va., as survived by her mother and two sisters, Mrs. D. Miles Taylor and Miss Jean Overbey, and by numerous friends, among whom are Mrs. Berryman Green, of Danville, and Miss Virginia Bouldin.

## JAPAN MAKING SUPPLIES FOR RUSSIA AND ALLIES

Furnishing Guns, Ammunition and General Necessities to Armies at Front.

### HELPS TO RECOUP WAR LOSSES

Americans Astonished at Almost Limitless Number of Tiny Shops in Big Cities, All Engaged in Turning Out Articles for Fighting Forces.

TOKYO, August 8.—Now that the danger of war with China is over, all Japan and Korea is engaged in making supplies for Russia and her allies.

The war brought big financial losses to Japan, but the gaps are being filled in part by the furnishing of guns, ammunition and general necessities to the armies at the front—particularly the armies of Russia.

Officially, Japan has given increased practical expression to her friendship towards Russia by going to the limit of dismantling some of her fortifications on the northeastern coast of the empire. Big coast guns stripped from these fortifications have been shipped to Vladivostok and thence forwarded to Galicia to strengthen the big-gun artillery of the armies of the Czar.

Americans who visit Japan are especially astonished at the almost limitless number of tiny shops in the big cities of this nation—miles upon miles of streets filled with them—all occupied in making something when they are not selling something. These shops are really the factories of the empire. It is here that cloth goods and innumerable articles needed to keep huge armies in supplies are turned out, handed over to commission merchants, assembled in great quantities and distributed to Russia, France and even England. The correspondent of the Associated Press is informed by a reliable authority that practically every household in Korea is hard at work making cloth for Russia. It is sent to Moscow and other points and manufactured into uniforms, blankets, coverings and wrappings.

Korea, also, is making big quantities of boots and ammunition cases. Major Papowski and another Russian officer have just arrived at Seoul to take over the fourth consignment of orders manufactured by a tanning company near

Seoul, and consisting of 40,000 pairs of boots and 30,000 ammunition cases.

### ABANDONS TEMPORARILY CELLULOID BUSINESS

The Japan Celluloid Company at Aboshi, near Kobe, has abandoned temporarily the celluloid business for a more profitable business of making explosives. This company recently received an order from the Russian government for 140 tons of gun-cotton to be delivered before the end of the year. A test of the explosives having proved satisfactory, the first installment, consisting of 15 tons, was dispatched to Petrograd. The Aboshi factory is said to be turning out two to three tons of explosives daily.

Leather materials, belts, pouches and sacks are manufactured at Tokyo. A series of temporary sheds have been erected on vacant land near the houses of the Diet and are busy night and day.

The production of rifles in Japan is limited in capacity compared to other countries, and Japan is anxious to fill out her own reserve stock. The available number of rifles for the reserve strength of the Japanese army is estimated at 500,000, and it is understood that the general staff of the army is desirous of increasing the number to 1,000,000. It has learned a lesson from the unpreparedness of the allies with respect to guns and ammunition, and from the vast expenditure of munitions demonstrated to be necessary to the successful conduct of modern wars. Japan, therefore, means to get ready herself along the lines revealed by the international war.

This has naturally reduced the quantity of manufactured material available for Russia—still Japan is doing a good deal, especially in the direction of powder and small ammunition. The powder is sent over to Russia and there used for the manufacture of shrapnel and explosive shells.

The private output of guns and ammunition is, generally speaking, controlled by the Mitsui and Okura companies who attend to the distribution of the orders. Guns are being manufactured at Tokyo and Osaka, and at the big steel works in Hokkaido, which is partly controlled by English capital. It is understood also that the Mitsubishi company at Nagasaki and the Kawasaki company at Kobe are sharing in the manufacture.

A good part of this output was held up by the recent congestion at the port of Vladivostok. When Japan's contribution to the munitions of Russia actually reach their destination it is expected here that there will be a noticeable change for the better in Russia's power of defence and offense.

## CHANGES IN WAR CONDITIONS

Reasons Why Strategy Used Against Napoleon Is Not Effective Now.

[Correspondence of Associated Press.] BUDAPEST, July 29.—A Budapest newspaper publishes an interview with General von Buelow in which he discusses the difference between the present German campaign in Russia and that of Napoleon in 1812.

"It has been remarked," said the general, "that the present strategy of the Russians is the same as that which proved effective against Napoleon. Such strategy was effective then, but not now, when means of communication have been so much improved. The bread which our soldiers eat to-day in Windau was baked in Breslau yesterday."

"In times when a railway is being built, a mile behind the advancing forces; when thousands of motor lorries are close behind us; when asphalt roads grow as it were, out of the earth, no such strategy is effective. We drink German mineral water and eat fresh meat direct from Berlin, and can build a road, if necessary, fifty miles long in one day."

### Automobilists Injured.

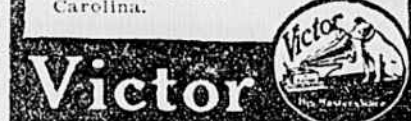
WASHINGTON, V. A., August 8.—While coming to a dance given by the young men of Washington, Va., Fleet street of this county, Miss Ethel Millan, of Flint Hill, Va.; Joseph Marx, of Chicago, a West Point cadet, and Frank Funk, of New York, were thrown from their automobile and all were more or less injured. Mr. Funk, the owner, was driving the car. Not being familiar with the road he failed to make a short curve and the car ran into a deep ditch.



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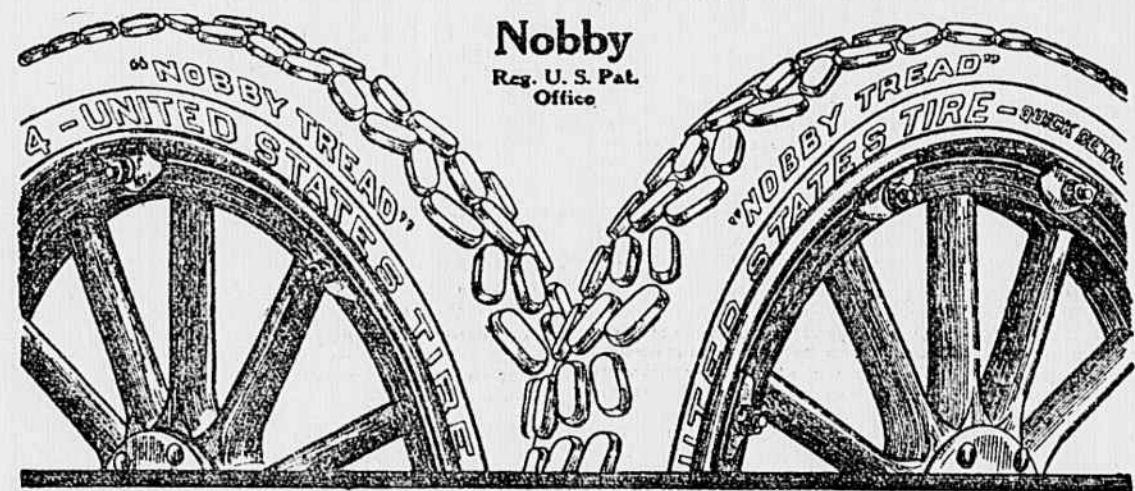
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